

Transportation Team & ACE

May 29, 2014

4:00

People Present: Peter Garrett (Kennebec Messalonskee Trails), Joel Greenwood (KVCOG), Chris Huck (KVCOG), Elery Keene (Winslow Planning Board), Fran Mullin (director, Healthy Northern Kennebec), Jen Olsen (Waterville Main Street), Ellen Wells (Inland Hospital), Darcy Whittemore (Hall School), Angela Wight (Healthy Northern Kennebec), Rosemary Winslow (Waterville City Councilor), Jim Wood (Sustain Mid Maine Coalition), Linda Woods (Sustain Mid Maine Coalition)

Update on bike plan (Chris Huck):

Chris is working to develop maps that connect the existing trail network along the Kennebec to other trails.

- there is a gap in the Greenville area;
- need to develop the backbone as opposed to side routes
- looking to develop regional priorities;
- proposal due by the end of summer;
- invites anyone with experience to assist him; no real group to assist although there are spokespeople; will be meeting with representatives from Kennebec Messalonskee Trails;
- The trail from Winslow to Centennial Trail will be bike friendly.
- a railroad spur from Oakland to Norridgewock to Madison exists; however, no talk of railroad's abandoning this even though it needs major upgrades
- Rosemary & Mike Roy are meeting with Pan Am to discuss access. Peter has talked to them before about a trail from Head of Falls to Fairfield.
- Fran suggested holding forum with riding clubs in the area.

Action Items:

Chris: Contact Dave O'Clair in Augusta

Chris: Contact Dave Richard of Central Maine Cycling Club

Peter: Send Kennebec Valley Cycling Club contact to Chris

Ellen: Send the contact info for Chris Riley CmMeNEMBA to Chris

Everyone: If you know of someone who might be interested in assisting, contact Chris

Summary of Hall School Survey (Darcy Whittemore):

Darcy reported that the Hall School is working to get more kids to walk/bike to school. The Wellness Team sponsored a walk several weeks ago from Waterville High School to the Hall School. 80 kids/20 adults walked. She is feeling good about their momentum.

The Hall School sent out a Safe Route to School Parent Survey and received 58 back. The results were sent to National Center of Safe Routes to School that produced a 13 page report. Darcy distributed a one page copy and presented the highlights. School transportation director & the committee are looking into the percentage of kids who live within a mile of the school.

- working to create a safe route for potential walkers;
- looking into the "Walking School Bus" system;

- looking into remote drop-off to promote exercise
- Oakland Schools are working on a similar project.

Darcy wondered if someone on the committee could address the problem. The committee is looking into the next steps. Jim suggested asking Chief Massey about the problems in the area of the school (crime, accidents, etc).

Action Items:

Darcy: Send the results of this survey to Linda to disseminate

Rosemary: Talk to Greg Brown about specific, problem intersections that are listed in the survey

Joel: Prepare a map that features high rate of accidents with the Hall School at the center

Ellen: Send info about sex offenders living near the Hall School to Joel to include in the above map

Ways to sustain the area's momentum (Fran Mullin):

Fran is looking for someone to serve as a leader of Active Communities Environment to maintain the momentum (as Fran is changing jobs). ACE Team's focus is trying to make environmental change within the community.

- hoping to formalize the group to do a presentation to the Waterville City Council; some funds available for training to build leadership or education; need for something practical to keep the wheels turning

Peter sees that each group represented has a specialty, so it is important to hear others' needs and share with others.

- keep people involved;
- provide an annual update to Waterville and area communities
- A good comprehensive plan will identify goals that we can help with.

Action Items:

Joel: Bring copies of each municipality's comprehensive plan to the next meeting

Joel: Contact Vassalboro about their comprehensive plan

Joel: Send a Complete Streets Policy from DOT to Linda to disseminate

Peter: Contact Josh Reny to arrange a meeting about the comprehensive plan

Waterville's Spring Street and South End Intersection (Jen Olsen):

Chris & Jen are working with Waterville using the Wilbur Smith Study of 2009 on a cost benefit analysis to make the Spring St Intersection more bike/ped friendly. (This is the intersection from the Hathaway to downtown.) The City Council has granted permission for this to go forward.

- looking into which option City wants to proceed with;
- what do we need to provide for pre-planning documentation?

Update on Oxford Conference [the ACE Committee of Western Maine] (Angela Wight):

Angela reported on this conference that she attended. The focus was on "How to change your town into an active city for people of all ages & abilities."

She attended a workshop by Dan Stewart, who said: “No can turn into yes” and recommended asking many people, meeting your regional transportation manager, and finding out what will be paved before it happens.

- recommends reading “The Processes to Improve Your Community” booklet by Dan Steward Bike Coalition of Maine plus DOT—funding sources for trails & bikes.
- Mick Rogers wants to do trail audits to see what is feasible
- has several funding suggestions that she learned about at this conference.

Angela went to ACE Team 101 with Doug Beck.

- he will send his power point to anyone who is interested;
- focus on how to move forward with ACE;
- CDC is creating a tool kit for ACE Maine (based on one from Wisconsin);
- attended one on low-hanging fruit to make spaces more productive
- Peter suggested we have a similar conference here. How to get to municipality leaders? It was discussed that it is difficult it is to get municipal officials to attend conferences. Maybe at the state level?

Joel & Darcy have almost completed the Rural Active Living Assessment. If you want to see it, contact one of them.

Action Items:

Darcy: Send “The Processes to Improve Your Community” to Linda to disseminate

Everyone: Watch or Read “Designing Healthy Communities” (Fran has a copy, so contact her if you want to see this.)

Jim provided an update that KVCAP will be working with Penquis CAP. Therefore, KVCAP will have more control and scheduling flexibility for MaineCare transportation for this area. The implementation date is August 1.

The next meeting will be **Thursday, August 21 at 4:00 at KVCOG.**

Agenda for next meeting: When do we want to meet with each municipality? Look at the comprehensive plans